

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2696 without my signature.

This bill would impose additional costs and workload on the Department of Justice (DOJ) during a time of limited state resources. Funds for this purpose have not been included in the 2008-09 fiscal plan, and adding requirements to DOJ while also seeking programmatic reductions due to the state of the General Fund is inappropriate. In addition, this bill potentially creates a reimbursable mandate, which could lead to even more General Fund pressure and costs.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger